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SOURCE Periodicals as indicated.

NEW WEST GERMAN CRUDE-OIL AND NATURAL-GAS EXPLORATION

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Seismic Measurements on the German Coastal Shelf

The 'Prakla' Gesellschaft fuer praktische Lagerstaettenforschung ("Prakla" Practical Deposit Exploration Company) of Hanover was the first European group to undertake seismic soundings of the continental shelf in September 1951. At that time, the measurements were carried out in the Ausseneider in the North Sea [off Schleswig-Holstein.] Good reflections obtained in the location of the Wintershall AG Oldenswort concession permitted plotting the continuation at sea of the known Mildstedt-Oldenswort oil structure. The apparatus used was improved and used for seismic soundings in Eckernfoerde Bay between 3 and 10 September 1952. The object was to establish the continuation of the oil structure of Waabs-Schwedeneck in the region of the Wintershall-Deutsche Erdoel concession of the same name. The more recent oil discoveries in Schleswig-Holstein have made seismic soundings at sea particularly important.(1)

New Oil Discovery in Schleswig-Holstein

The Ploen 2 exploration drilling, about 15 kilometers west of Ploen, struck oil at a depth of 1,975 meters. The drilling is located on the east flank of the Krempe Laegerdorf-Bramstedt-Warnau oil structure, and has a similar structural position to the Boostedt 1 drilling, 12 kilometers away, where oil was struck in May 1952. The oil is a light oil, rich in gas content, with a specific gravity of 0.86.

After the discovery of oil at Hohenwoehrden in January 1952 and at Boostedt in May 1952, this is the third oil deposit to be found in Schleswig-Holstein in 1952.(1)

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Oil Discovery in Lower Saxony

The Aldorf 1 drilling (formerly Dueste 7), 4 kilometers north of Barnstorf in the Ridderade concession of the Wintershall AG, struck oil in sandstone horizons located at depths of 1,104 to 1,108 and 1,113 to 1,117 meters. While the well did not have enough pressure to be eruptive, a pump which was put in operation on 12 November 1952 produced initial quantities of 13 to 14 cubic meters per day. The oil has a specific gravity of about 0.86 - 0.87 at 15 degrees centigrade, contains 17 percent gasoline by volume, and 6 percent paraffin. The pressure conditions are now being investigated. It should be pointed out that the upper sandstone horizon which also contains oil has not been tapped for production until now.

Further drillings in the region are to be conducted, but data on oil reserves available would still be premature. It is hoped, however, that Aldorf 1 will close the gap between the Emsland and the Hanover fields.(1)

Natural Gas at Pfungstadt /Near Darmstadt/

The Pfungstadt 2 exploration drilling of the Deutsche Erdoel AG is delivering gas from a depth of 900 to 994 meters. While tests at the Pfungstadt 1 drilling yielded only slight amounts of gas, the tests at Pfungstadt 2 give indications that the strata between 700 and 900 meters contain greater quantities of gas. So far, pressures up to 75 atmospheres have been measured.(1)

Total Production of New Oil Fields

The six oil fields which were opened in 1952, Boostedt, Ploen, Lehrte, Vorhop, Aldorf, and Stockstad, contributed only about 10,000 tons of crude oil to the 400,000-ton increase in West German oil production during 1952, when production reached 1.75 million tons. However, the oil wells of Hchne, and Hemmelte-West, discovered in 1951, increased their production by 100,000 tons during 1952, yielding 118,000 tons.(2)

SOURCES

1. Hamburg, Erdoelund Kohle, Vol V, No 11, Nov 1952
2. Duesseldorf, Verkehrs-Wissenschaft, Vol V, No 1, Jan 1953

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